

**TOWN OF BLUFFTON MAY RIVER WATERSHED ACTION PLAN ADVISORY
COMMITTEE
Electronic Meeting
Thursday, July 23, 2020**

Present: Chris Burden chair; Larry Toomer vice-chair; Al Stokes; Amber Kuehn

Absent: Wes Jones; Chris Shoemaker; Emmett McCracken

Staff: Beth Lewis; Kim Jones; Bryan McIlwee; Bridgette Noonan

Guest: None

Media: None

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. NOTICE REGARDING POSTING OF MEETING PER SOUTH CAROLINA FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (FOIA) REQUIREMENTS

III. ROLL CALL AND CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM

1. Members introduced themselves.

IV. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

1. Mr. Toomer moved to adopt the Agenda as presented. Mr. Stokes seconded the motion. Unanimous ayes.

V. APPROVAL OF February 27, 2020 MEETING MINUTES

1. Mr. Toomer moved to adopt the Minutes as presented. Ms. Kuehn seconded the motion. Unanimous ayes.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. None

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Watershed Action Plan Advisory Committee (WAPAC) Welcome New Committee Member

Ms. Jones introduced Amber Kuehn, a new committee member appointed by Town Council. Ms. Jones stated Ms. Kuehn can provide knowledge, opinions and perspective to help restore and protect shellfish harvesting in the May River. Ms. Kuehn has a background in Marine Biology with a BS in Biology and a Master's in Marine Science. Ms. Kuehn also operates a charter boat company on the May River.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

1. May River Watershed Story Map

Mr. McIlwee provided a brief introduction to the purpose of the story map which was developed in response to Dr. Montie's 2019 report on fecal

coliform trends and other May River health indicators. The story map provides the public access to accurate, transparent water quality data and Town initiatives to improve shellfish harvesting conditions in the May River. Ms. Lewis began by highlighting several key features of the May River Watershed Story Map. This included information about the May River Watershed, why it is important to the Town of Bluffton, challenges facing the watershed, and a history of shellfish classification changes in the May River.

In addition, Ms. Lewis showcased a key feature of the story map, the Water Quality Dashboard. This dashboard provides access to all the Town's water quality monitoring data from 2014-present. Ms. Lewis then showcased the May River Hub, where residents can become engaged in the Town's Stormwater Program and efforts to protect the May River. Ms. Lewis stated staff would be working with the Town's Public Information Officer to promote the May River Watershed Story Map and its location on the Town of Bluffton's website.

The following items were recommended by the committee for inclusion in the story map:

1. Mr. Burden requested staff include a summary of the overall health of the May River.
2. Mr. Toomer recommended staff include the Town's historical and present Water Quality Improvement Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) and provide a link to the Town's CIP Story Map.
3. Mr. McIlwee stated that staff would also include the Town of Bluffton and Watershed Management Division's Mission Statements, as well as the role of the May River Watershed Action Plan and WAPAC in water quality improvement efforts.
4. Ms. Kuehn requested that staff ensure water quality program data was presented in a simplified manner so residents could easily determine the status of the May River's water quality. Staff stated they would work with the Town's Geographic Information System (GIS) Program Manager to determine what could be done to simplify the data layout however the dashboard template has been a limiting factor in presenting the data.

2. Water Quality Monitoring Program (standing item)

Ms. Lewis provided an update on the following monitoring data:

1. Weekly Sampling Update **Attachment 1a**.
2. Microbial Source Tracking (MST) Update **Attachment 1b**
3. SCDHEC Shellfish Data **Attachment 1b**

IX. DISCUSSION

1. Ms. Jones discussed that the Committee will be reviewing and recommending to Planning Commission adoption of the SoLoCo Regional Stormwater Ordinance and Design Manual in September, and the May River Watershed Action Plan Update in October, followed by review of Strategic Plan item in the Nov/Dec meeting.

X. ADJOURNMENT

1. Unanimous decision to adjourn. Next meeting: August 27, 2020 @ 9:00 AM

Attachments:

1. Water Quality Program
 - a. Weekly Sampling Update
 - b. Microbial Source Tracking (MST) Update and SCDHEC Shellfish Data Update

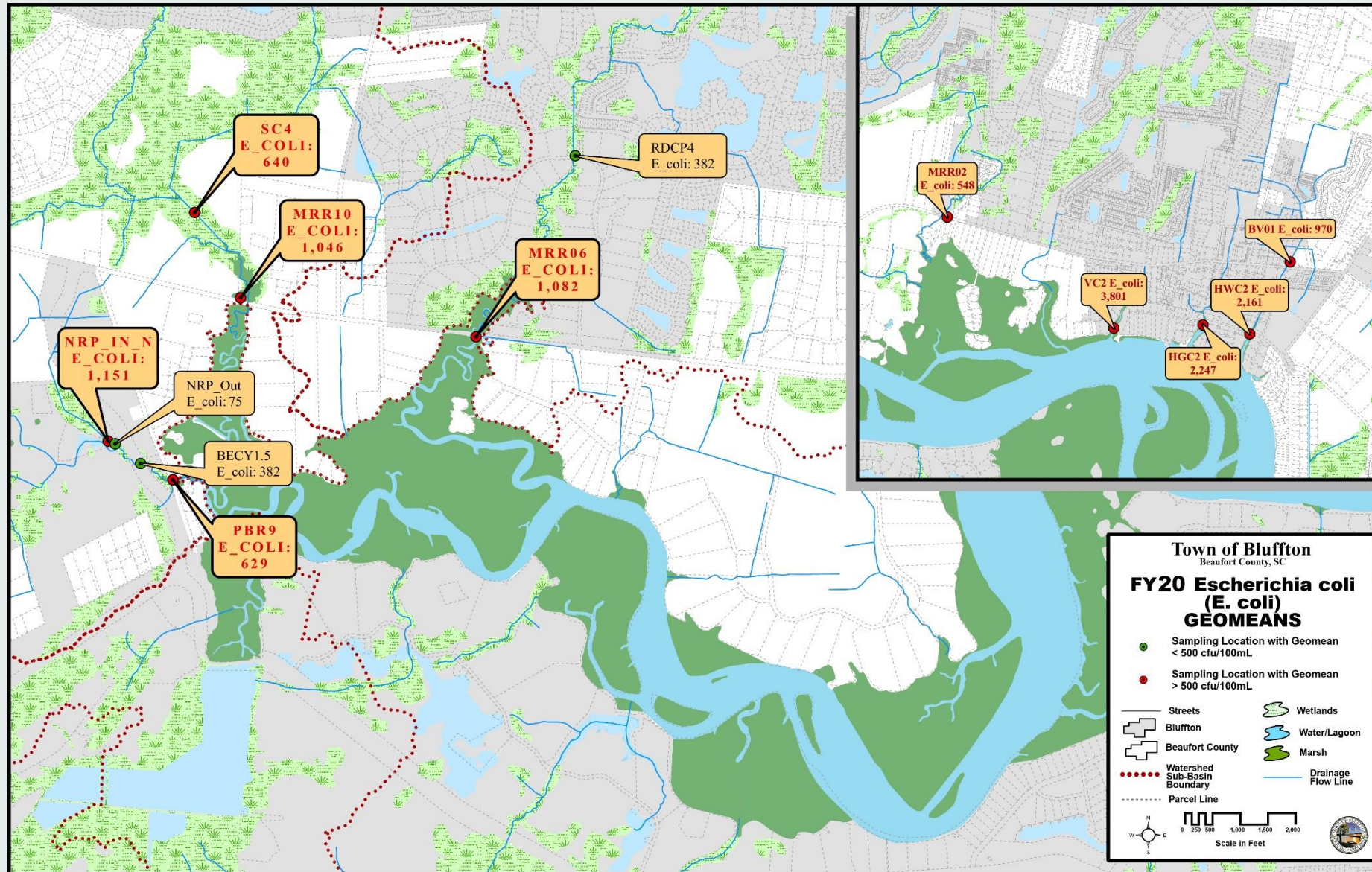


Weekly Sampling Update

WAPAC

E. coli Sampling Program Data Fiscal Year (FY) 2020

Attachment 1a



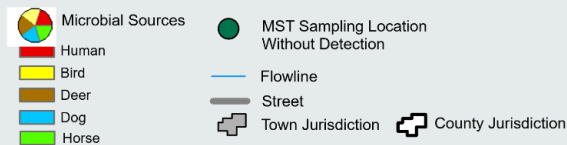
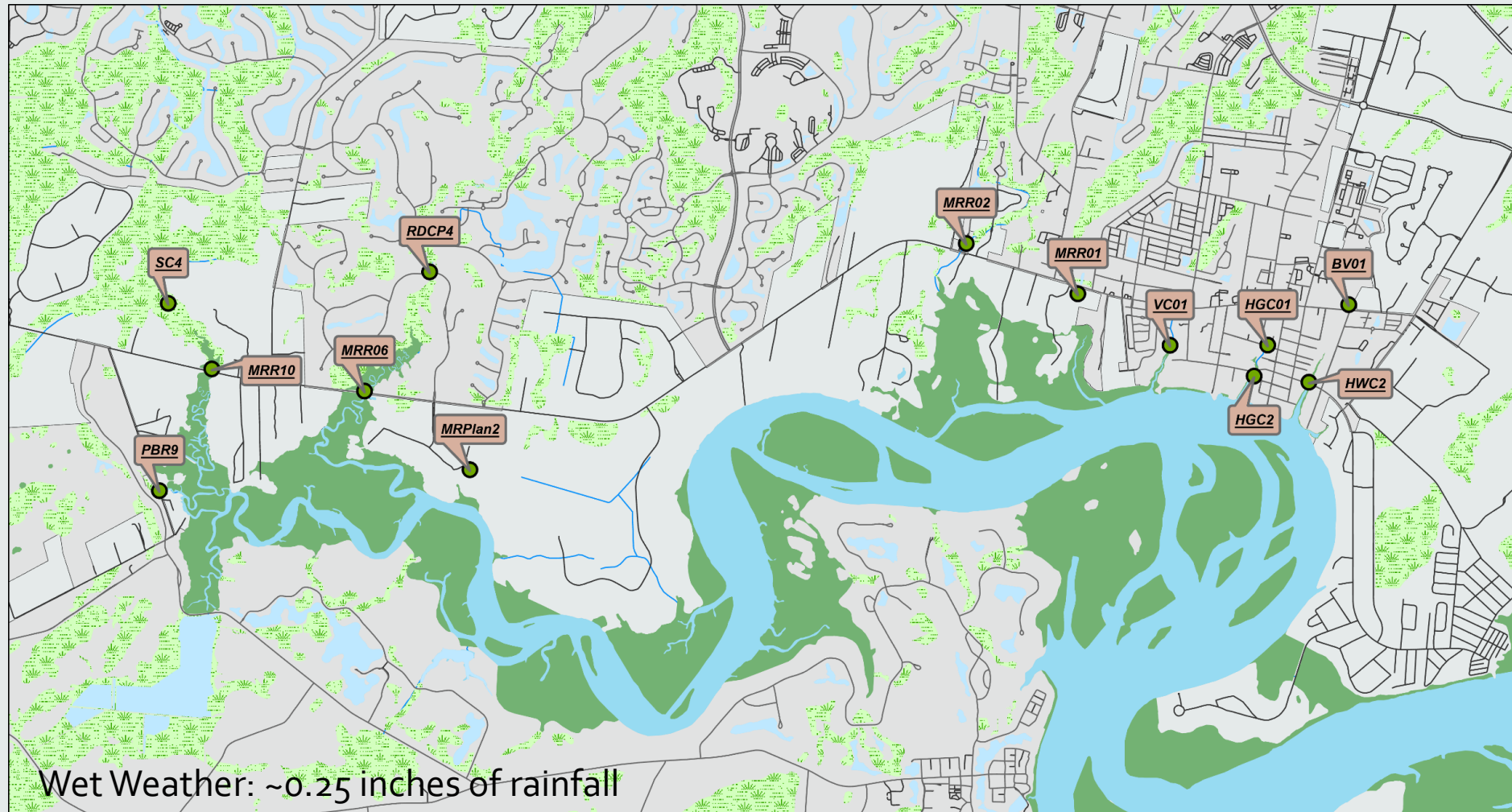
E. coli geomeans updated as of: 7/22/2020



Microbial Source Tracking (MST) Update

WAPAC

Microbial Source Tracking (MST) Sampling 04/16/2020 Attachment 1b



MICROBIAL SOURCE TRACKING LOCATIONS

Sampling Date 4/16/2020

Town of Bluffton
Beaufort County, SC

DISCLAIMER:
This map was prepared by the Beaufort County Health Department for informational purposes only. It is not intended to be used for legal or financial purposes. The Town of Bluffton and Beaufort County are not responsible for any errors or omissions on this map. The Town of Bluffton and Beaufort County are not responsible for any damages or injuries resulting from the use of this map. The Town of Bluffton and Beaufort County are not responsible for any claims, damages, or losses resulting from the use of this map. The Town of Bluffton and Beaufort County are not responsible for any claims, damages, or losses resulting from the use of this map.

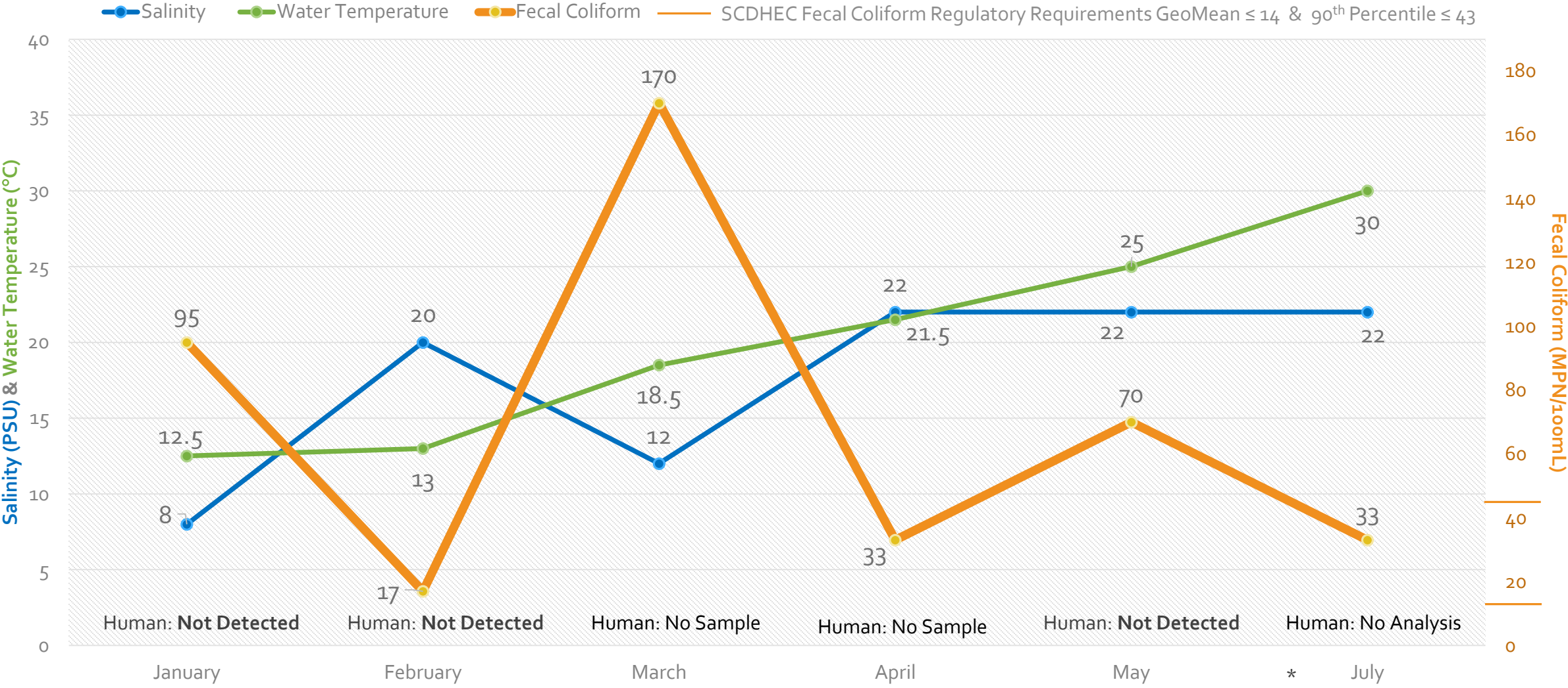




SC DHEC Data Update

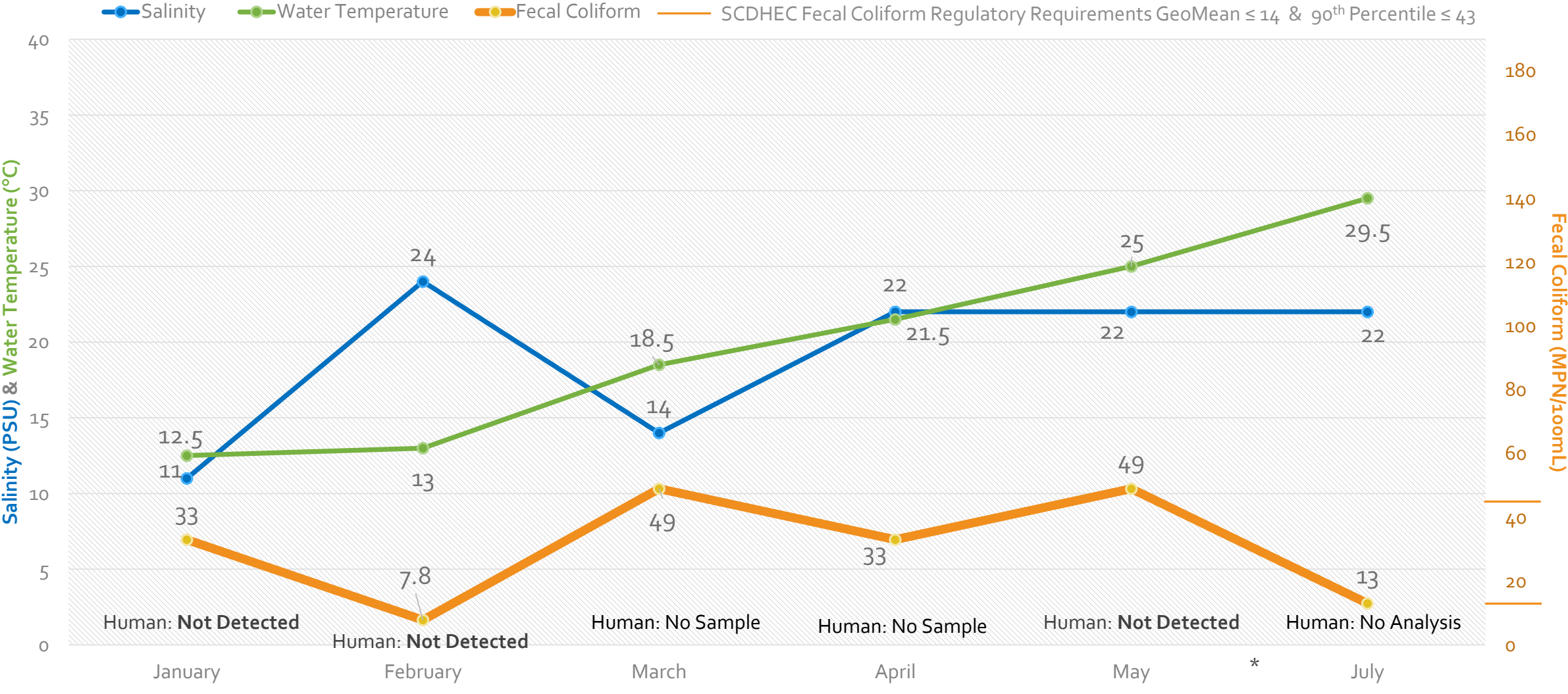
WAPAC

2020 SC DHEC Shellfish Harvesting Data Station 19-19



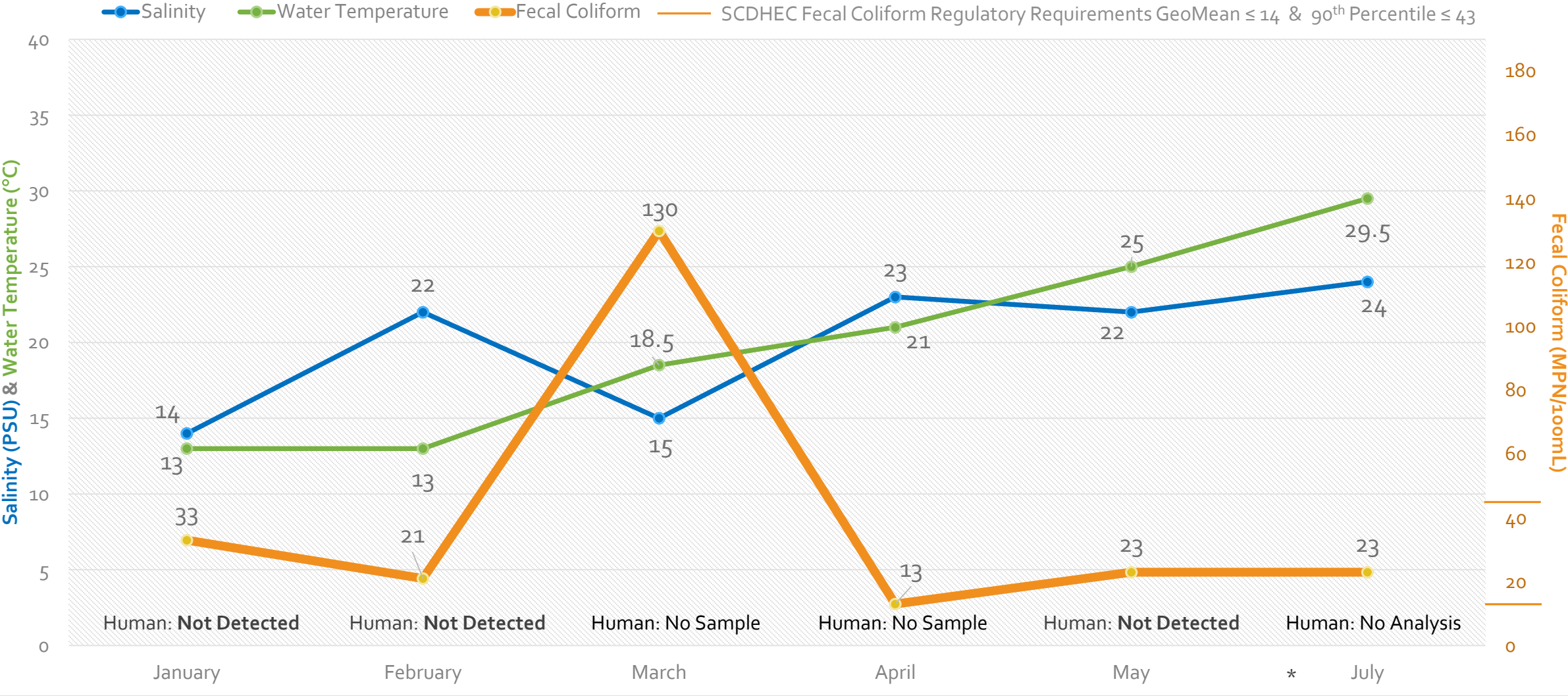
* SCDHEC did not collect samples in June

2020 SC DHEC Shellfish Harvesting Data Station 19-19A



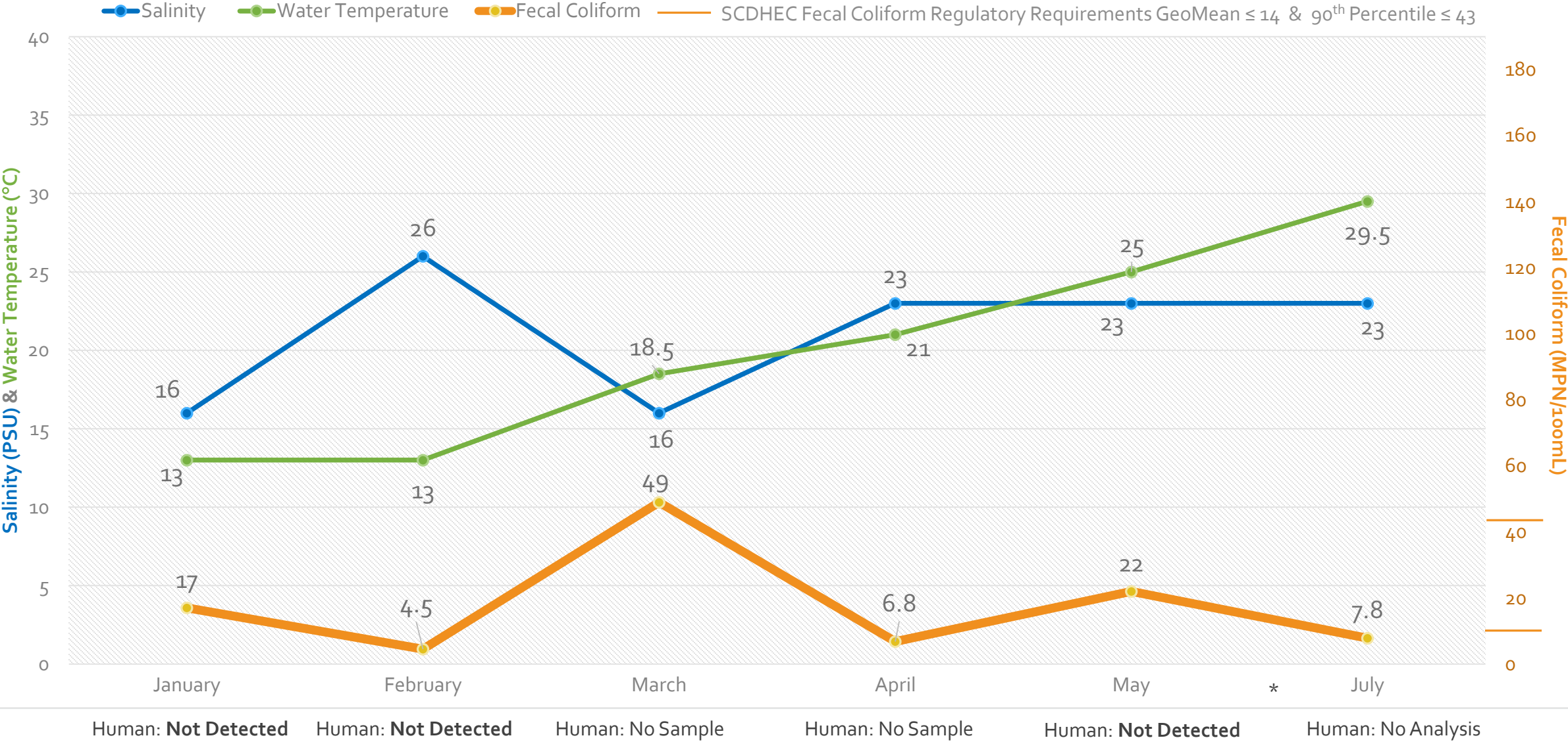
* SCDHEC did not collect samples in June

2020 SC DHEC Shellfish Harvesting Data Station 19-19B



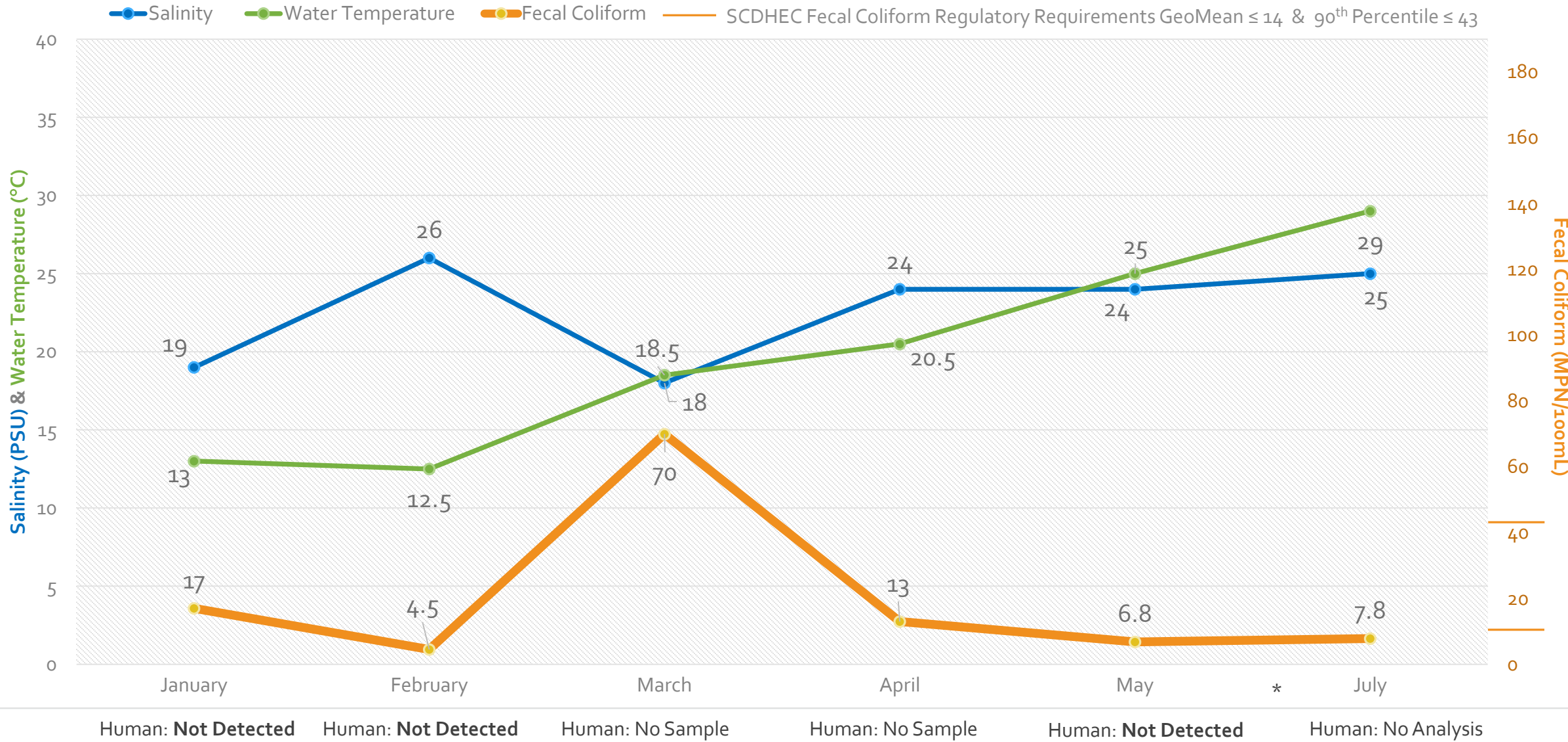
* SCDHEC did not collect samples in June

2020 SC DHEC Shellfish Harvesting Data Station 19-19C



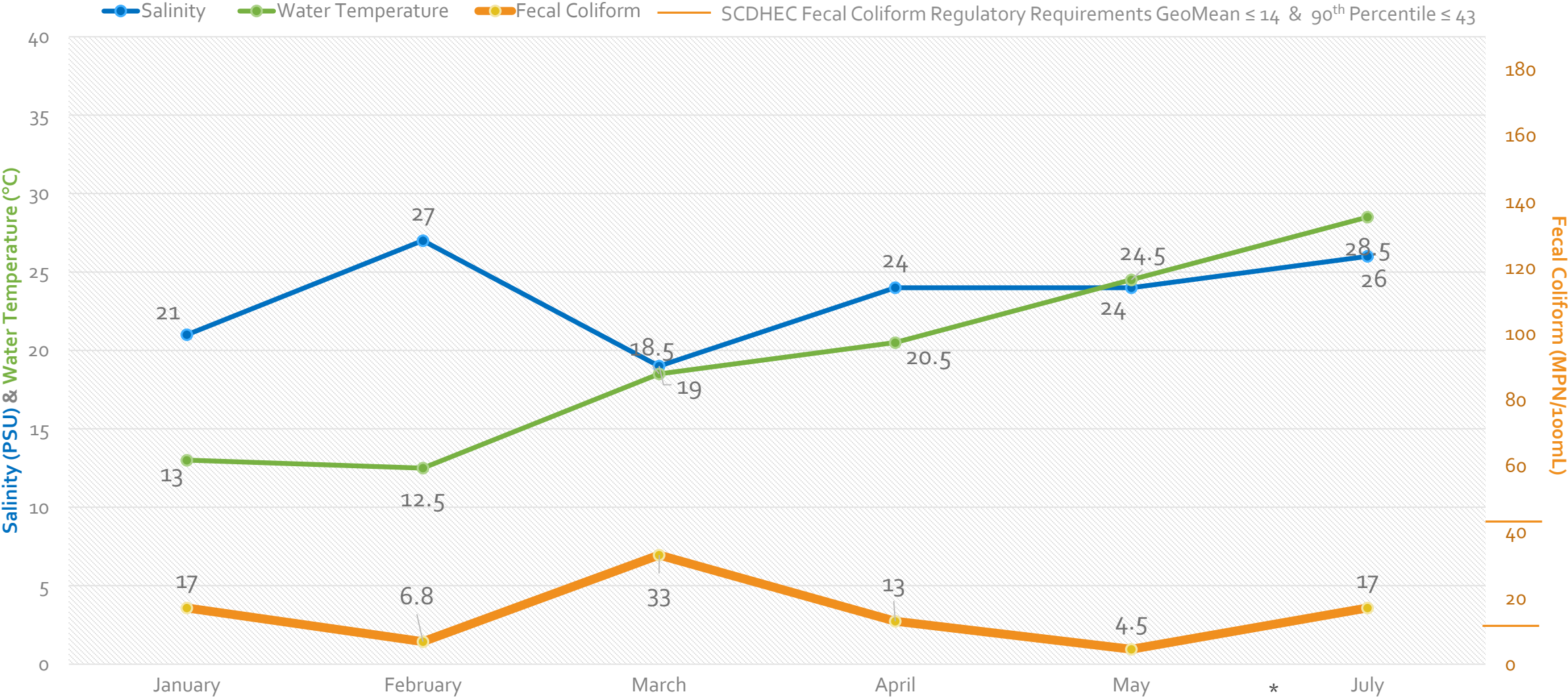
* SCDHEC did not collect samples in June

2020 SC DHEC Shellfish Harvesting Data Station 19-24



* SCDHEC did not collect samples in June

2020 SC DHEC Shellfish Harvesting Data Station 19-16



* SCDHEC did not collect samples in June
Microbial Source Tracking (MST) No Longer Collected at 19-16

Questions?